

- I. Claims 15-17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 30 and 32 drawn to a method for detecting an HIV antibody employing a mixture of antigens comprising an antigen from HIV subtype D and another antigen, an antigen and a reagent
- II. Claims 15, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 27, 31 and 33 drawn to a method for detecting an HIV antibody employing a mixture of antigens comprising an antigen from HIV subtype E and another antigen, an antigen and a reagent
- III. Claim 28 drawn to a method for detecting an HIV antibody employing antigen from HIV subtype E
- IV. Claim 29 drawn to a method for detecting an HIV antibody employing antigen from HIV subtype D

Election of Invention and Restriction for Examination

Applicants elect the invention of Group 1, claims 15-17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 30 and 32, for prosecution at this time, with traverse.

Traversal of Restriction and Election Requirement

The Examiner argues that the inventions of Groups I-IV lack corresponding technical features because the groups recite different methods which employ different reagents and are patentably distinct each over the other.

Applicants argue that the claims of Group I are not patentably distinct from the claim of Group IV, and that Groups I and IV should be combined because the inventions of Groups I and IV share corresponding purposes and technical features, steps and reagents, namely an antigen from HIV subtype D.

For the above reasons, reconsideration of the Examiner's requirement for restricting Group IV (claim 29) from that of Group I (claims 15-17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 30 and 32) is respectfully requested by Applicants, and specifically, Applicants request that claim 29 be included with the claims of Group I.

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The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this
Amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-0877. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

December 21, 2000

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